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CASH CONTRIBUTIONS-“FISHBOWLS”

- An individual may only make cash contributions to a candidate of up to \$50 per election. This would include any contribution placed in a “Fishbowl”.
- Candidates must account for all contributions received; they are not allowed to accept anonymous campaign contributions (AG Opinion 97-165). Contributions placed in a “Fishbowl” are anonymous unless records are kept.
- In order to comply with the restriction of the campaign financial disclosure law, candidates must be able to identify the source of each contribution received. If a candidate cannot account for each contribution received, they will not be able to determine if:
 - An individual has contributed more than \$50 in cash for an election.
 - An individual has exceeded \$100 in contributions for a reporting period and thus their contributions must be itemized.
 - An individual has exceeded the \$1500 per election contribution limit.
- There are several methods that a candidate may use to keep records at a “fishbowl” event. These methods include:
 - Have a campaign worker(s) stay with the “fishbowl” and take names and addresses as contributions are placed in the “fishbowl” (remember that occupation and employer must be obtained for contributions that are itemized).
 - Have each contributor complete a card with the appropriate information and have it placed in the “fishbowl” at the same time the contribution is made.
 - Have envelopes printed with blanks for the required information. Each contributor may place their contribution in the envelope, provide the required information and then drop it in the “fishbowl”.